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Summary of News.

Monday, 2nd February.

CRITICISING Mr. Goschen's important speech on the currency question at Leeds, Mr. Chamberlain described bimetallism as a practical impossibility. He severely criticised the system of large deposits and small reserves in private and other banks, with the tendency it produced to rely upon the reserves of the Bank of England, and he foreshadowed the more frequent publishing of accounts. The bimetallists are gratified at Mr. Goschen's announcement of the issue of one pound and ten shilling notes as a concession to their principle though it is unlikely to affect the price of the metal materially.

THE Bishop of Lahore takes leave shortly for three months.

THE *Statesman* writes:—The amount of work done by the High Court during the past official year, whether on the Original or on the Appellate Side, was, we note, less, and the quantity of arrears it left at the close of the year greater, than usual. On the Original Side, only 401 cases were disposed of, as against an average of 511 in the three previous years, and the number of cases pending at the end of the year was 575 as against an average of 499. On the Appellate Side the Court disposed of 4,636 appeals and applications, as compared with an average of 5,991 in the preceding five years, and the number of cases pending at the close of the year was 3,654, as compared with an average of 3,189. We also note that the Court sat for 228 days only, as against an average of 247 days in the preceding five years. The figures may admit of explanation, but, on the face of them, they can hardly be considered satisfactory. The Mofussil Courts show a better record, for they disposed of 461, 298 suits, against 457, 021 instituted.

THE *Pioneer* says:—Banks generally are adverse to Mr. Goschen's scheme for the issue of one-pound notes.

THE railway strike in Scotland has ended in a victory for the Companies.

THE recent ruling that Members of Council in India are no longer to have special carriages exclusively reserved for their use on the railways is due to the action of the Secretary of State. 'The large sum spent in the construction of the carriage of the Public Works Minister in Sir Theodore Hope's time excited some surprise at the time. Councillors' carriages lie idle for ten months in the year, and the India Office has now ruled that they are to be used for any purpose for which they are fit. The general public, however, will scarcely care to pay the sum demanded for the privilege of travelling in these luxurious saloons, but during the cold weather distinguished visitors may charter them, or the Government may place them at the disposal of official guests. A Member of Council travelling on duty, may have allotted to him one of the special carriages already in existence when they are available, and there can be little doubt that they will always be forthcoming in November and April, the months in which tours are made. But at the same time a member will have to pay for any of his family who may accompany him on his journey. He thus fares rather worse than his own clerks, so far as the annual trip to and from Simla is concerned, but his high rate of pay may be supposed to compensate him for having to buy tickets for his household.'

THE Cesarewitch, after visiting Madras, Tanjore, Madura, and other places in Southern India, embarks at Tuticorin for Colombo, on February 11th. Thence he goes to Singapore Batavia, Bangkok Saigon, Hongkong, Shanghai Japan, and Vladivostock, before returning through Siberia to Russia.

THE Resident at Aden in reporting on the income-tax declares that the greater part of the inhabitants abstain from giving true returns of their incomes, and that the tax undoubtedly presses very hardly upon persons with small incomes in such an expensive place as Aden. The same is true of all parts of India.

Tuesday, 3rd February.

THE following is the programme of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's tour in Midnapore and Chittagong:—

Leave Calcutta	February	5th
Arrive Midnapore	„	6th
Halt	„	7th
Leave Midnapore	„	8th
Arrive Calcutta	„	9th
Leave Calcutta (for Chittagong *via* Diamond Harbour)... ...	„	13th
Arrive Chittagong	„	15th
Halt Chittagong		16th, 17th
Leave Chittagong for Dacca *via* Chandpore	„	
Arrive Dacca	„	21st
Halt	„	22nd
Leave		23rd, 24th
Arrive Calcutta	„	25th
	„	26th

All urgent letters and telegrams intended for the Lieutenant-Governor should be directed to "The Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal Camp," without the addition of the name of any post-town.

THE latest advices from Chile state that the regular troops have regained possession of Valparaiso after an engagement which lasted several hours, and in which the insurgents lost heavily. It is believed that the rebellion will soon collapse.

Lord Salisbury, replying to a question in the House of Lords, said that the doctor's report was that Arabi Pasha is not suffering from the Ceylon climate, and that it is therefore not necessary to interfere with the existing arrangements in regard to his exile.

Capital says:—"We are glad to see that the Magistrate has dismissed the case, brought against Mr. R. G. Palmer of this city, and has stated that he left the Court without a stain on his character. The charge has all along struck us as extremely trumpery, probably instigated by wire-pullers, who wished thus to wreak their spite." The Magistrate has referred the complaint to the civil court.

ON Wednesday last, the Sobha Bazar Club played a cricket match against the Medical College team. The game ended in a tie. The Medicals went in and scored 56. This was also the score of the home team Much credit is due to the home team, as the Medicals kept the Harrison Shield for the last two years.

THE India Office is prepared to appoint twenty-one Surgeons to the Indian Medical Service, this year, instead of seventeen, as previously notified. The examination commences on the 9th instant.

IN the Presidency Jail in Madras, the practice of cutting off the hair has been done away with. A woman's hair is only cut by the Doctor's orders for disease or extreme filth.

A GENERAL meeting of the Manchester Ship Canal Company was held at Manchester at which the Chairman announced that, owing to the bad weather injuring the works, and to disagreements with the contractors, the report was less favourable than was expected, and it would be necessary to raise an additional capital of seventeen millions sterling: The Manchester Ship Canal Company require an additional capital of £1,700,000 and not seventeen millions, as was erroneously stated in the first telegram on the subject.

THE Madras Legislative Council will shortly have before it a Bill for amending the local Municipal Act. The *Madras Mail* says that it is solely because this Bill is on the legislative anvil that the Health Officership has been left vacant so long.

AN eminent London oculist has had a case submitted to him which, in view of the spread of the electric light, adds a new terror to daily life. It goes to show that the electric light is capable of causing a malady similar in its bearing to sun-stroke. It is said that though the phenomenon is new, it is not unfamiliar to French *savans*. At Creuzot coal mines and iron-works the electric light is largely used in some shops, the candle-power reaching a very high range. In such circumstances attacks akin to sunstroke are by no means unfamiliar, happening generally in the case of persons peculiarly susceptible to electric shocks.

Wednesday, 4th February.

TECHNICAL education has taken an undesirable channel in Paris, where the police have discovered a training-school for thieves. In the Paris case the two principals are women, and they had under their care six boys—all about eleven years of age. It was the duty of the two elders, to attend to the feeding of their scholars, to arrange all the plans for robberies, to keep watch, and to train new hands to the business.

THE *Englishman* says:—"An extraordinary rumour has got about that the Cesarewitch was shot at by an Afghan during his recent tour in Upper India. The scene of the alleged outrage is variously stated as Allahabad, Jeypore, Agra, and probably half a dozen other places. It has even been added that the occurrence is the real reason of His Imperial Highness's departure from Calcutta before the date originally fixed, and that the Press has been bound over to silence. Were it not for the persistence with which the story is being repeated, it might have been left to die a natural death, but we may as well state that there is not a particle of truth in the report. From first to last the outrage is a pure invention, the first news of which reached the Cesarewich's suite on their arrival in Calcutta. None of the Officers, who accompanied His Imperial Highness, were able to imagine how the story originated."

IN a recent testamentary suit before the Madras High Court, counsel for the executors raised a question as to the construction of section 50 of the Succession Act. The testator made a draft will which he signed, and the attesting witnesses only initialled it. The question was whether such initials were a good signature according to that section. Counsel pointed out it has been contended in the Bombay and Calcutta Courts that a mere mark or initials was insufficient. Authorities being cited in support of the contention, the Judge held that initials were sufficient.

LADY LANSDOWNE visited the Ezra Hospital on Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, accompanied by Captain Brasier Creagh, A. D. C., and went through all the wards, and expressed herself much pleased at what she saw.

THE funeral of Mr. Bradlaugh took place at Woking Cemetery on Tuesday, and was very largely attended. Among those present were delegates from the workmen of the principal towns in England, besides Mr. John Morley, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Burt, and other Members of the House of Commons.

IN the Bundelkhund Railway Compensation case, some of the Chiefs expressed a half-hearted willingness to Mr. Robert Crosthwaite to abandon their claims for money on condition of being honoured by Government, either with some titles or an additional number of guns for salute. Is their liberality spontaneous?

PRESIDING at the distribution of prizes at the Madras College of Engineering, Lord Wenlock made his first public speech. He said that everybody was now aware of the increasing importance of the science of engineering, and everybody must recognize the extraordinary importance, to the convenience of our daily life, of the labours of that important body, the Engineers of this country. He had seen some of the greatest engineering works of the present day, and he heard with great satisfaction the report just read. Replying to some remarks about finding employment for the men, trained in that College, he announced that Government had decided to guarantee three more appointments of such men. Later on, in his interesting speech, the Governor alluded to the prizes, given by Sir Madava Rao. It was with the greatest sorrow he learned that one of India's most distinguished statesmen, one of the most illustrious men, embraced in her history, was, at present, lying in a condition of serious illness.

THE Government has decided to raise the status of the Kapurthalla Rajah in the matter of complimentary *khilluts* which will in future be of the value of Rs. 6,000, instead of Rs. 4,500 as heretofore. This honour is granted in consideration of the State's loyal services in the Afghan war, and of the good administration of the State during the minority of the present Rajah.

Thursday, 5th February

AT the last half-yearly meeting of shareholders of the East Indian Railway, in London, Lieutenant-General Strachey communicated to them the welcome intelligence that a dividend of 7*s*. 6*d*. was likely to be declared in addition to the 2 per cent. already given. In 1889 only 4*s*. was got. This result, it has to be remembered, has been achieved by what is called "substantial economies," but which in plain language means the grinding down of poor subordinates.

SIR ALEXANDER Wilson left for England on Wednesday night. His "mantle falls now," says *Capital*, "on Mr. W. O. Bell-Irving in whose hands we feel sure, the reputation of the firm [of Jardine Skinner and Co.] may safely be trusted.

A CASE which recently came before the Insolvency Court in Madras should serve as a warning to those who indulge in the species of gambling known as speculation on the rise and fall of Government paper. Mahomedan lad aged only 19 years, who had no capital of his own nor any assets, and who maintained himself on an allowance of Rs. 25 per month made to him by his father, was found, in the course of his examination by the Court, to have had dealings with the banks to the extent of two lakhs of Rupees, and with merchants to fifteen or sixteen lakhs. His petition to be allowed the benefit of the Act was dismissed.

THERE has been a heavy snow-storm at Naini Tal, lasting for thirty-six hours. The snow lay 10 to 14 inches deep on the ground, and was not affected by a fall of rain.

AN able and painstaking antiquarian has laboured to elucidate the origin of Indian coinages. The earliest known Indian coins consist, he says, of small, oblong, roughly cut plates of silver, stock to a definite standard of 32 *ratis* or 58½ grains in weight. Subsequently they were punched by hand with various devices, and still later words and figures were stamped on the coins.

SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN arrived in Allahabad on Sunday morning, on the conclusion of his tour. His Honor will, in all probability, remain in Allahabad until the end of the present month.

AT 5-30 P. M. on Wednesday, an extensive fire broke out, in a range of wooden godowns at Mirbohur Ghat, on the Strand Road, a little beyond the Hooghly Bridge. The Fire Brigade was quickly on the spot and extinguished the flames in the part that first took fire. It was, however, found that some buildings in the rear of those already on fire, had caught, and were burning briskly; these godowns were stowed with tar cocoanut and kerosine oil, paints, and other inflammable materials in barrels. Constructed as the premises were, of timber and bamboos, the flames acquired a rapid hold, and it speaks well for the efficiency of the Brigade that so little damage was done. The fire began in Nurjun Coondoo's rope shop, and is attributed to the ignition of some kerosine oil stowed in one of the houses. In dealing with the second portion of the conflagration, it was found that a large building filled with tar and paint had ignited, and it took the engines all their time to contend with the enemy. Everything, however, was extinguished by 9-30, when the men were called off. The Fire Brigade deserves very credit for its prompt and effectual assistance. The men worked really splendidly, and had it not been for their efforts the chances are that the fire would have proved most disastrous. The damage is excessive, though it has not been estimated. The Port Commissioners' ware houses, which are adjacent, had a narrow escape.

THE most unprecedented and severe weather has been experienced at Quetta during the last few days. The rain has been incessant and the damage to house property incalculable. This heavy rain, coming on the top of the severe frost, snow and rain of the last 3 or 4 weeks, has done tremendous damage and caused the greatest possible inconvenience up at Quetta. Bungalows are said to have tumbled down *en masse*, and there is not one scarcely that is water tight. The greatest part of the Native Infantry lines occupied by the 13th Bombay Infantry are uninhabitable, and a large number of the transport drivers are under canvas, their quarters, which have vaulted and domed roofs, unsafe. The loss to Government property will be enormous, and the unfortunate residents, from the General downwards, are suffering the greatest discomfort. It is no exaggera ion to say tl at, with the exception of the station hospital buildings and the old buildings occupied by British troops, there is not a Bungalow in Quetta that has not been leaking and the bungalows with domed roofs are in the majority of instances pronounced unsafe by the Engineers.

Friday, 6th Febr uary

"THE London correspondent of the *Hindu* writes:—Mr. Schwann, M. P., seems to be very greatly charmed with what he has seen of India. He is, in a sense, like the Qeeen of Sheba when she beheld the glory of King Solomon: "Lo! the half had not been told me." "As far as my preconceived ideas are concerned," says Mr. Schwann, "they are quite out-done by what I see of the country, the climate, the inhabitants, and the costumes." Mr. Schwann has a quick and sympathetic eye, and sees beauties and striking objects and incidents everywhere. The spectacles of the "Arabian Nights" become real under his gaze. Not only, however, do the persons of the inimitable tales flit before his gaze, but he sees and notes the splendour of your skies. The gorgeous after-glow," he remarks, "when the sun has sunk below the horizon, which brings the plams and the mango trees into such beautiful relief as they tower above some spacious water tank, must be seen to be realised. We are simply overwhelmed by the variety of glowing colours, picturesque human figures, visible everywhere in the crowded streets." "Everywhere colour, brightness, animation, defying the artist by the brilliancy of tint, scarcely practicable on the palate." And so on Mr. Schwann's letters are not confined to such topics as I have mentioned: he was busy while in Bombay in seeings schools, and other institutions, and tells in an entertaining manner what he has seen. He is critical too, in some respects."

THE *Pioneer* writes:—"On the 1st January our London correspondent called that the prospects of silver legislation in the Congress this session were virtually hopeless; and in spite of the ups and downs which the question has undergone in the meantime, his forecast has now come to be justified. It is impossible of course at this distance to follow a question closely through the tangled skein of the American politics, but the main bearings of the position are clearly discernible in the light of the information recently telegraphed by our correspondent. It would seem that the Democrats have succeeded in what appeared to be their forlorn hope of defeating the Force Bill—the measure which the expiring Republican House trusted to pass in order to bring in the Negro vote to swamp the Democrats in the Southern States, In revenge the Republicans have made silver a party question, and with their majority in the House of Representatives this decision makes cheances of the Stewart Bill, the Sherman Bill, the Vest Bill, or any other scheme coming down from the Senate practically hopeless. The consequence, as our correspondent says, will probably be a fall for the moment in the price of silver, which may have been kept up lately in anticipation of legislation—to what extent we shall see when the Treasury purchases recommence this month. Meantime the future might easily be darker. The Silver Bill of last July will at least be in operation through the summer, and when the new House meets in the autumn there should no longer be any apprehensions for the fate of a silver measure at the hands of the Representatives; while the conservative Senate will probably retain the opinions is holds now in regard to the support of the white metal"

THE nomination for the Government of India Scholarships falls this year to the Bombay Presidency. These coveted prizes, of which there are six, were, it will be remembered, established in March 1886, at the cost of the Government of India, for the encouragement of youths who are natives of India within the meaning of Sec. 6, of the Statute 33, Vic., Chap. 3 (that is, born of parents domiciled in India), to perfect their education and study for the learned professions. The Universities of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and the Punjab are entrusted in rotation with their disposal; the privilege for this year happens to be vested in Bombay. The Scholarships, which are tenable for three years, are most valuable ones, for they entitle the holders to an allowance not exceeding £200 a year, and he to whom a scholarship is awarded will be required to proceed to England, whither a free passage will be granted. It is stipulated that he shall reside in England for three years, unless compelled by ill-health to return sooner, and at the completion of that period he shall receive a return passage free.

THE shooting case which took place recently in the Kapurthala State was the cause of a ruling by the Government of India that, although such occurences have not been of such frequency as to justify the total prohibitions of soldiers shooting in Native States, it is considered expedient that some further restrictions should be placed on soldiers in the case of cantonments situated in or close to Native territory, and that with this object the military authorities will be moved to instruct commanding officers to communicate with the political officers of such States with a view to ascertaining in what tracts of the country shooting should be forbidden. Shooting at night has, at the same time, been prohibited.

Saturday, 7th February.

A PETITION in English and in some of the vernaculars is being largely circulated throughout the country for signature. It is addressed to "The Honorable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled," and prays that immediate measures be taken to stay the desolating scourge of the opium vice—(1) by the Government of India retiring from, and prohibiting in these lands, the growth and manufacture of opium, and (2) by extending the same protection to the people of these dominions against opium-consumption, as is afforded to the people of Great Britain, under the Pharmacy Act of 1868, by which it is unlawful for opium to be sold except by duly qualified chemists and druggists for medicinal purposes, and then only under a label, inscribed with the word, "Poison". The petition proceeds from the agents of the English anti-opium trade party, located at Bombay.

TRAVELLERS to Simla during the coming season will be able to get to Kalka by rail. According to a draft time-table which has been published, Delhi will be reached from Calcutta about 4 A. M, and a train will leave Delhi for Kalka at 4-30 A. M. arriving at Umballa at 11 A. M. and at Kalka about 1-30 P. M. The speed on the Delhi-Kalka line will be something over twenty miles an hour, the 162 miles being covered in nine hours including stoppages. In a time-table published last November 6½ hours only were allowed for the journey; but it is considered unsafe to run at the rate of 35 miles o.er a new line.

CREMATION is making headway in France as well as in England. Mr. Kinglake, the historian, and the Duke of Bedford are among prominent Englishmen who have lately preferred reduction of their bodies to ashes by fire to the slower process of decay in the grave. In France, M. Adolphe Peyrat, Senator and formerly Vice-President of the Upper Chamber of the French Legislature, was incinerated at the crematorium of the Pere Lanchaise, January 5, in the presence of a large number of his colleagues and many members of the Chamber of Deputies.

A RUMOUR is current that France has offered England to purchase the Portuguese claims in East Africa, on condition that England will recognise French sovereignty there, France, on her part, abandoning her claims in Newfoundland.

BABU Rajnarain Bose, who is one of the most prominent leaders of the Adi Brahmo Somaj and is against early marriage below the age of 14 in respect to girls, for reasons of his own gives the following problem to his fellow-reformers to solve:

> Three generations back, counting a generation by twenty yea s, the Bengalis were comparatively a tall, strong, and vigorous race, not like the sickly Lilliputian bipeds of the Calcutta University. My testimony will be corroborated by all old men of my age. They ate like lions, and could undergo much physical labour and fatigue although the custom of early marriage prevailed for centuries before they came into existence. What was the cause of this? This rapid deterioration could not possibly have been caused by early marriage. I fancy, this is a hard nut for brother-reformes to crack. Let them urge other arguments than that of physical deterioration.

A MEETING of nearly three thousand Mahomedans and two thousand Hindus was held on Tuesday at Naraingunge. The President, Moulavi Mir Mahommed, explained in a pithy speech how the Age of Consent Bill is opposed to the Mahomedan religion. The meeting unanimously condemned the Bill as opposed to both the Mahomedan and Hindu religions, and calculated to bring disgrace and commotion amongst the people.

THE *Dainik* gives in a tabular form the names of places in the Mofussil, where public meetings have been held to protest against the Age of Consent Bill:

Dacca—Sudder, Head-quarters, Khushdi, Bhatpara, and Hanskara.
Burrisaul—Sudder, Kilpara, Shadhakuti, and Perozepore.
Nuddea—Sudder, Lukuria, Kustea, Hanskally, and Ghurni.
Burdwan—Dainhat and Kulna.
Rajshahye—Panchughur Sudder.
Darbhangah—Sudder.
Rungpore—Sudder, Durbani, Moheshgunge, Dimla, Tush Bhander, Kureha, and Kakani.
Pubna—Dogachia.
Mymensingh—Sudder, Nuggerbani, Irta Muktagacha, and Majhati.
Hughly—Baidyabati, Guptipara and Bolagur.
Balasore—Sudder.
24-Pergunnahs—Panihati, Kurdah, and Gopalnugger.
Dinagepore—Rajarampore.
Murshidabad—Berhampore.
Purnea, Sudder.
Faridpore—Pangsha.
Jessore—Sudder, Magura, Kodlapara, and Naldanga.
Howrah—Sudder and Bally.
Tipperah—Chandpore.
Bogra—Sudder.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1891.

MR. TELANG AS A *SMRITI* CRITIC.

MR. JUSTICE TELANG is reputed to be a good Sanskrit scholar; at the same time he enjoys a halo of orthodoxy in his part of the world; therefore his opinion in matters of Hindu law has a weight which cannot be claimed on account of his antecedent as the advocate of of Rukma Bai in the Dadajee Bhikhajee *vs.* Rukma Bai case, in which a young girl was set up as a judge as to what she should do and not do in defiance of law. His opinion has unfortunately been mixed up with the cry for female liberty in defiance of law. His new essay on the imperativeness of the Hindu sacrament of conception reads very like the plea of a special pleader and not the statement of an impartial Judge. At the outset, his scope, he proposes, will be confined to the declaration "of the religious aspect," but he immediately starts the question of the relative merits of the western treatises of *Dharma Sindhu* and *Nirnaya Sindhu* and the Bengal digest of Raghunandana. Sir Ramesh Chunder Mitter took particular care to point out that the Bengal treatise was the guide of the Bengalis; he did not expound any other law, and thus he left no grounds for discussion as to the kind of force which the Bengali treatise exercised. Mr. Telang indulges in a series of cavilling. It is of the smallest consequence what is the technical nature of the book so long it governs the ceremonial of the Hindu law in certain matters. Do the Hindus follow the dictates of that law and does the Consent Bill so much as contravene that law for making certain sacramental rights punishable by law? That is the pith of the question, but to overload it by discussion regarding expiation or *prayaschittas* and the extent of half prayschittas and quarter prayaschittas, are quite beside the question and altogether unworthy of Mr. Telang as an High Court Judge. With the Hindus of Bengal the supreme question is: can they follow the dictates of their law in the face of policemen's batons that have been put forth in the Penal Code? If they cannot, Hindu law has so far been over-ridden by the legislature, and it amounts not to a sixpence, whether it may be justified by any local law. We have our Hindu law of Raghunandana, and so long as our courts are governed by that law we care for no other, and we look upon the attempt to raise any discussion upon the authenticity of the Hindu law by merely saying that the treatise of Raghunandana is not complete or not authentic, or not so authoritative as the *Nirnaya Sindhu* or the *Dharma Sindhu*, as irrelevant. Jurists will always carry discussion on the subject in the regular way, but it has nothing to do with the wicked attempts of throwing dust into people's eyes. By the way, the learned Judge has embarked on discussions without even buying a copy of the law of Raghunandan whose authority he impugns. He admits in so many words that he has not yet seen the work of Raghunandan, and yet he launches his lance to demolish it. This is, to say the least, unbecoming a Judge. From the mouth of an advocate of Rukma Bai it would have been very sharp practise, but from the Bench of the High Court we certainly did not expect it. For the sake of decency the Judge should have obtained a copy of the book before he criticised it. He was evidently too much in haste to get a hurrah from the masses in support of his opinion to wait for the necessary paper. It is not necessary for us to say anything about *prayaschittas*. The admission by Mr. Justice Telang that an expiation is necessary for the omission of the ceremony suffices for our purpose. It takes for granted its imperative necessity. As to what it should be it is altogether a minor question, and we do not want to take it up here. By the way, in the case of Dadajee as that of a carpenter, the expiation should have been limited to the simple words *nama nama* as a carpenter is not permitted to utter the Vedic text. Would the performance of the *Krichhra* ceremony in the case of the twice-born classes be so simple? Would the voluntary omission of a ceremony be expiated by this substitute? But the mention of the expiation is a plan for raising the dust and we detest it. The only other question is the potency of the Government order. But the order should not be in a bill, and it is the Bill which we oppose. When it is enacted, will we or nill we, it must be obeyed. That is not a question which we require a judge of a High Court to answer.

"HASTEN SLOWLY."

WE have received an able paper on *the Age of Consent* question by Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghosh. It requires close and thoughtful study. Babu Jogendra Chandra is a prominent member of the reform party, and his opinions on social questions carry great weight. The proposed legislation will, in his opinion, be productive of incalculable mischief on Hindu Society. His paper raises important questions, and they deserve the serious attention both of the Legislature and of our countrymen. The writer views with alarm every case of conflict between British Indian law and the Indian customary law of our own time and caste-groups. 'I want first and foremost', says he, 'to be an honest man and law-abiding citizen. But I have also to submit to the rules of my caste-men.' The proposed measure will create a conflict between these two classes of law. The one is as binding as the other. The social penalties are more severe in some cases, for the violation of the law, than the provisions of the Penal Code. By violating a customary law, a man is not transported for life, or imprisoned for ten years, it is true, but he becomes an outcaste, and is out of the pale of the society of his caste-men, and has thus no communion with his caste-men. On all festive occasions, he is rigidly excluded from the society of his friends and relatives, and the people of his tribe, and no one would either give to, or take from, his family a daughter in marriage. Those who have no knowledge of the operation of our caste-rules, are unable to realise the severity of the restrictions imposed by them. This is what Babu Jogendra Chandra says on the subject:

'The question before us suggests that if the Hindu Religious law should in any case require what is called the rite of *Garbhadhan* to be fully observed in my family by a married couple before the so-called age of consent, I should have either to deliberately wink at crime being committed under my roof or set the Hindu law at open defiance. It will not do to say, that Sir Andrew Scoble's construction of the Hindu Scriptures, or even that of any great but far off Indian Pandit's, renders that religious observance unnecessary. It is the family priest—the Guru and Purohit—standing midway between, on the one hand, the male and especially, the female members of the family, who follow the lead of the priests, and on the other, the particular circle of Brahmans with whom those family priests are connected, it is these whose reading of the Hindu Scriptures will count for religious law in my family. And so long as I could not arrive at definite understanding between myself, our priests, and their belongings, in regard to the religious law, the British Indian law running against our established Religious usage would be a source of the greatest possible disturbance.'

With regard to the attitude which has been assumed by the so-called Advanced Liberal party towards the large body of conservatives, which exist by its side, and who form an important factor of both the social and political orders, the question that is to be decided is, should the breach, which has already been created by diverse circumstances, be widened, or should steps be taken to close it to the manifest advantage of the parties concerned? There cannot be two answers to this question. In political questions the two classes were standing on a common platform, and harmony was being gradually restored between them. We have referred to this circumstance in another column. Fresh apple of discord, however, has been thrown between the liberal and conservative sections of our society, and it behoves them to arrive at a clear understanding as to the exact nature of the relations which should exist between them. The matter is a very serious one, and we have tried to touch upon it as delicately as possible. But there is no denying the fact that there is antagonism, and sooner there is amity between the two sections of our community, the better for our social well-being.

Babu Jogendra Chandra has raised another question, to which an answer must be given sooner or later. We approach this subject with the greatest reluctance, but the question will have to be faced. To what extent would Legislative enactments be binding upon the religious consciences of the Hindus? In other words, is our Sovereign the Head of the Hindu Church, in the same sense as she is the Head of the English Church? The proposed legislation has given rise to a religious question of grave importance. There are some who stoutly deny that it will interfere in any way with our religious beliefs, while others aver that it will vitally affect our religious rites. Now who should decide this question? The opinions of experts should certainly be taken, but with whom should the ultimate decision lie? With the Legislature of course. But then the Legislature is composed of Hindus and Mahomedans, Christians and Buddhists, and may be of Jews and Parsees; and such a Legislature will have to decide a question of Hindu religion. Will any decision by such a composite body be accepted as final by the Hindu community? The terrors of the temporal arm of the law may for a time coerce people to submit to its behests, but the question at issue is: Would it be binding upon our religious consciences? Would in such a case the temporal and the spiritual laws act in harmony, or would they be antagonistic to each other? If the decision of the Legislature be not acknowledged as authoritative on such a subject, great social disturbance is sure to ensue, and the consequences will be disastrous. We have simply indicated here the nature of the difficulty that will arise, and we leave it toour legislators to arrive at a definite conclusion on this point.

In view of all these difficulties, Babu Jogendra Chandra suggests that a Public Commission on the question of the Hindu Law of Marriage should be appointed, to settle the points at issue. Our friend has great faith in the co-operation of the Brahmanic priesthood, and he rightly holds that if they could be approached in a conciliatory spirit, the marriage problem will not be difficult to solve. We will let him speak for himself:—

"I owe the suggestion to a friend to say that the only way out of the present difficulty is to appoint a Public Commission on the question of the Hindu law of marriage with a view to obviate the opposition of those who insist upon marriage of girls before a certain event. Turning now for a moment to the affairs of Indian Native States, it will occur to any one that where knotty questions of Hindu law find at times but a make-shift solution in Her Majesty's High Courts, or the Privy Council, the Indian chiefs with their own Council, have at command a more expeditious, far-reaching and inexpensive mode of solution for similar occasions. They call their council together, and take the opinion of all the most learned Pandits and then lay down the requisite law. The Pandits in giving their opinion have a freer hand than the Judges of British India who are strictly confined to the issues of the particular case before them. The Hindu law to be rightly construed should not only be studied as a whole, but also with reference to such variations of usage as may have cropped up in the course of ages. For instance if to-day an ignorant Hindu were to seek a Pandit's *Vyavastha* (opinion) on Sati-immolation, the Brahman who would ignore the Penal Code would simply make a fool of himself. On the other hand, whoever supported the opinion of Pandit Iswara Chandra or the principle of Widow-remarriage Act would have to do so on peril of caste persecution. The Native States can easily put on record any authoritative construction of the Hindu law without touching the sensibilities of the most conservative Hindu.

'The success of the Native States has been so great that in Rajputana Colonel Walter has been instrumental in introducing very important changes in the Hindu marriage law. And I do not see why our Legislative Councils should have to look upon the system of Hindu Religious caste as an opponent, if only it would care to follow Colonel Walter's line of action.

"The proposed Commission of enquiry, with wide discretionary powers could easilly collect the opinions

of Pandits to furnish a suitable solution for the present difficulty. Their endeavour should be, not to ascertain whether or not *Garbhadhan* is a Hindu religious rite; but to obtain a satisfactory answer according to Hindu Religion to the question raised:—how premature and noxious sexual indulgence and like other immoralities might be prevented consistently with Hindu law and usage.

"An attempt to solve the present difficulty by some such indigenous agency, even if it failed, would ensure two important results without damaging in the least, the cause of the proposed law: The Government would be fully exonerated from the charges of high-handed or sophistical interference with Hinduism. And the way to quiet change for the reform-party would not be shut out again in this case, as it has been, in regard to re-marriage of virgin-widows.

"Man's power grows by submitting to the laws of Nature and of Society. The traditional Religious authorities of the Brahmins is a social force among Hindu people. And the Government by yielding to that authority could only gain in, but never lose from, the unprecedented strength it now possesses."

There is not the slightest doubt that great good may be done by keeping legislative action within the legitimate boundaries fixed by social opinion. Legislation to be effective must be in accordance with, and not in antagonism to, such opinion.

A WARNING.

If we really are so wicked and depraved as we are described to be, as a result of course of mischievous customs and institutions long obtaining in the country, how do you propose to reform us? It is abundantly clear that educative legislation cannot be of the slightest value or use, and well might we crave for a few more years' respite to see if the interim could not be improved upon. We have shown some improvement as even our detractors will admit, and why should we be incapable of more, if necessary. A decade or two more of depravity would not hopelessly ruin us, and the "nineteenth century" might probably see a better order of things. But do not make us dogged, perverse and reactionary by ill-advised and forced legislation. To those of our educated countrymen who seriously support the measure we would address a simple question. Do they think that the time has yet come when we could fall in with the Government views about keeping a little aloof from the Government and the British people, and setting up an inter-liberal-and-conservative warfare that will effect our separation and alienation effectually and for ever? Or had we not much better keep on together a little longer, strengthen our position, and in our own representative Councils, where our wants and desires would be better understood, discuss and deliberate upon social questions affecting our community?

The split in the camp brought on by this short-sighted and suicidal policy will make it next to impossible to achieve the political privileges for which we have been fighting shoulder to shoulder so long. We have heard thoughtless people exclaim that the split would come sooner or later, and why not have it sooner when it was inevitable, so that the march of social progress would at once commence. Social reform may be to them dearer than political reforms, and they may not care for the one without or at the sacrifice of the other. If that be their sober view we have no quarrel with them, for we think quite differently. Social reforms would become much easier, smoother and more feasible with political reform first achieved, and if we are to wait for the latter till the former have been effected in all their completeness, we might as well whistle till doomsday and be none the wiser for it. England, the mother and seat of political reforms, sadly lacks social reforms which it is needless here to debate upon and if this view of our young friends be correct, England might as well go back to the Simon de Montford times and take to sackcloth and ashes.

The two reforms must go hand in hand together, and we have fairly earned our certificate of efficiency in one class by making a very tolerable and tangible progress in the other. The social order is first to be perfected, and then political reforms taken in hand your work will not have been fairly commenced even when the doomsday bell has been ringing in your ears, if by that time as a matter of fact we could come to have some distinct ideas as to what real social reform consists of. Zeal for reform may carry us far, but this proposition is intolerable. Unfriendly British statesmen and their supporters may preach the doctrine of social reform before political reform and may find support of their particular views. But thoughtful patriots should coolly deliberate upon the situation and determine whether because of the existence of alleged evils in their own society, they will lend themselves as ready and foolish tools to Government for the thwarting of the very reforms which they all have set their hearts upon.

A little thoughtful care would at once make clear to them the excellent manœuvre that has been played to gain over their support from the cause of the country. Government would be stultified in no way, and yet the end would be achieved without the slightest exertion, so to speak. The belligerents would be left to fight with each other and exhaust themselves to repose and no more would be heard of political demands. Whenever the legions of old Rome appeared threatening, the wise Senator would send them out to some impossible foreign military expedition to keep them "occupied" and out of the way of mischief. Our paternal Government has at last hit upon a mode of keeping the Congress legions occupied in a manner that will give them little leisure or opportunity to trouble Government for sometime to come. And when we do snatch a moment of leisure after a hard year's toil over the social problems, you cannot find fault with Government, if it tells the 'reform' party that it is a veritable microscopic minority whose demands cannot for a moment be entertained as coming in the name of the country and community, whose representatives they cannot claim to be, in the light of the present agitation. And its reply both here and in England to the orthodox demands will be that they are defenders of a barbarous custom, who opposed measures of reform tooth and nail, and *their* demands for political reforms, though admissible in the name of the country, cannot be entertained till they have obtained certificates of civilization.

Against this verdict no appeal would lie to the British public, for John Bull would not understand Hindu Society, which some of its own members do not, and would feel indignant at tales of "cruel barbarity," practised in this country. Political concessions would not be made for and at the instance of a handful of reformers, whom their country disowns, and Cimerian darkness through which the first blushes of the dawning day were faintly visible in the distant East, would continue unbroken and undisturbed. Who is responsible for this catastrophe, for it is bound to befall the country? Our zealous reforming friends, *Vaidiks* and congressionists all, have been amusing themselves with 'Professor Wyman's latest experiments about reverse skating. Here in the meantime is a veritable slide for the life. Skating on the head has brought on a concussion of the brains and in their delirium they asked 250 millions of their "ignorant and unreasonable" fellow-countrymen to hold their peace and not to make a row lest British sympathy should be alienated. Apart from the merits of the case why could not they—reasonable men—keep *their* peace for a while, for they knew what they were about? Silence is really golden at times.

THE KASHMIR INJUSTICE.

In commenting on the debate upon the Kashmir question which was raised by the late lamented Mr. Bradlaugh in the House of Commons last summer we pointed that the discussion had done one good thing, inasmuch as it had elicited from the representative of the India Office in the House a clear statement of the grounds on which the deposition of Maharaja Pertab Singh was based. Sir John Gorst declared that the mal-administration of the Maharaja compelled the Government of India to deprive him of all powers for the benefit of his subjects; and that although several opportunities for putting his house in order were afforded to Pertab Singh he failed to do the needful. We showed that the Maharaja was never given a fair chance of introducing the necessary reforms into the administration of his State. This proposition has now been proved to demonstration in a most important "communicated" article in a recent number of *India*. The writer of the paper shows a thorough acquaintance with the facts of the case, and has placed them before the British public in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired.

Every body knows that Maharaja Pertab Singh became ruler of Kashmir and Jummoo on the death of his father at the end of 1885. During the prolonged illness of Maharaja Ranbir Singh the administration of the State had become disorganised. This was distinctly admitted by the Government of India, and with the view of aiding the Maharaja in the introduction of reforms the Viceroy decided to give His Highness the assistance of a resident English officer. It was with this object that the officer on special duty in Kashmir was converted into a full-blown Resident, immediately on the accession of Maharaja Pertab Singh, in violation of the terms of the Treaty, which had been concluded with Maharaja Golab Singh by Lord Hardinge. If this act of bad faith had produced any beneficial result, something might have been said in justification of it. But, as the writer of the paper in *India* has conclusively shown, the residents posted to Kashmir by the Foreign Office have never rendered Maharaja Pertab Singh any help whatsoever in improving his administration, although the avowed object in sending them was to assist His Highness in that way. Pertab Singh assumed power at the end of October, 1885, and, under the able guidance of his trusted Minister, Babu Nilambara Mukerjee, at once devoted himself to the difficult task of putting his house in order. In December he paid a visit to Lord Dufferin in Calcutta, who impressed upon him the necessity of effecting the necessary reforms with as little delay as possible. Pertab Singh returned to Jummoo in February, 1886, and introduced several important changes in a short time. Unfortunately for the Maharaja, the first Resident Sir Oliver St. John left Kashmir in April, 1886, and he was succeeded by Mr. Trevor Plowden. The new Resident's behaviour from the first was most imperious and overbearing. He was most haughty and rude to the officials of the State, and his treatment of the Maharaja himself was little better. Well does the writer in *India* ask "was this the kind of Resident likely to influence an Indian Prince for good? Did the Government of India enquire from Mr. Plowden how he had carried out their instructions to the Resident in Kashmir to aid the Maharaja in introducing and carrying out reforms?" When Babu Nilambara found that it was impossible for him to accomplish the difficult task he had undertaken, he resigned his appointment in disgust in the autumn of 1886 and returned to Calcutta. Mr. Plowden now found an opportunity for which he had longed to impose his favourite Dewan Luchman Das upon the Maharaja as Prime Minister, and from the moment the Dewan joined his new post in the spring of 1887, Maharaja Pertab Singh virtually became a State prisoner. Luchman Das was *de facto* ruler of the State during the period he held the Prime Ministership, and the Maharaja cannot be blamed for what was done, or not done under the Dewan's *regime*. For Luchman Das's sins of omission and commission the Resident alone is wholly and solely responsible, as Mr. Plowden strongly supported the Dewan in all that he did. In the spring of 1888 Pertab Singh mustered up sufficient courage to remove Luchman Das from the Prime Ministership, and Mr. Plowden at once reported to the Government of India that "the Maharaja achieved nothing in two years." The Foreign Office, strange to say, did not think it fit to ask Mr. Plowden how much did he himself achieve in these two years. Although his favourite Luchman Das was sent away Mr. Plowden remained in Kashmir till November 1888, even after he had shown himself to be what the *Pioneer* justly described "a phenomenal failure." After the dismissal of Luchman Das, Maharaja Pertab Singh submitted to the Government of India a scheme for the establishment of a State Council. This scheme was not sanctioned in its entirety, and the Maharaja was not allowed to engage the men whom he wished to have for working reforms. In particular Lord Dufferin told him distinctly that he would not under any

circumstances be permitted to re-employ Babu Nilambara, who had done so much for the State. Pertab Singh then asked for permission to appoint Babu Pratul Chunder Chatterjee, who lately acted as a judge of the Punjab Chief Court, as Judicial Member of his proposed Council. But even this most reasonable request was not complied with. While the Maharaja was not allowed to employ men of his own choice, the instruments for working reforms, supplied to him from India by the Foreign Office were wholly inefficient. The new Council was constituted under the presidency of Raja Amar Singh in January 1889, and before the end of February the plot of the forged letters came to a head and the Maharaja was deposed.

From the facts given above, it is as clear as the sun at midday that Pertab Singh had not had a fair trial, and that enough time was not given him to thoroughly reform his administration. The writer in *India* observes:—"Now, as the year from Dewan Luchman Das's dismissal in March 1888, to the deposition of the Maharaja in March, 1889, was taken up with proposals, nominations and the like the Maharaja's original proposal not having been sanctioned, and as the whole period was spent in suspense and uncertainty, what real work could possibly have been done within that period? It is clear that the only period in which the Maharaja was allowed to reign was from September, 1885 to February 1887, the date on which Dewan Luchman Dass was appointed President of the Council and Prime Minister, a period of only sixteen months. * * * * Because the Maharaja began to reign about five years ago, every body takes it for granted that he has been responsible for all that has been done in his State during this time, and is accountable for the results. Unfortunately, in Kashmir things are done which are little known to the outside world. Only that is known which the President and the Maharaja's enemies chose to give out through the medium of the Anglo-Indian press." We would ask any right-minded English man to carefully read the narrative of facts given above and then say whether or not Maharaja Pertab Singh was given a fair chance of reforming the administration of his State. It cannot be too carefully borne in mind that ever since Dewan Luchman Dass was in power and Raja Amar Singh succeeded him the Maharaja has been no better than a State prisoner. His Highness had fondly hoped that in Colonel Parry Nisbet he would find a true friend; but in this hope he was also grievously disappointed. The gallant Colonel took a fancy to Amar Singh, and determined to make him ruler of Kashmir; and as every body in the Punjab knows, the Colonel is a man who would move heaven and earth for any one who had gained his good graces. And Raja Amar Singh who has been correctly described by Mr. Plowden as being ambitious to succeed his brother, had never forgotten his father's intentions in regard to him. Colonel Nisbet fell in with his ambitious views shortly after his appointment to the Kashmir Residency, and what followed is well known to the public.

The writer in *India* has also clearly proved that the very evils and the mal-administration which Sir John Gorst declared in the House of Commons in July last, justified the course taken by the Indian authorities, have not been remedied even in the smallest degree, but the British Resident himself has been a party to the commission of a number of those very evils; and that the most arbitrary proceedings have been practised under the new *regime*. The late Viceroy did not permit Maharaja Pertab Singh to take into his service men of the stamp of Babu Pratul Chunder Chatterjee; but what sort of men have been appointed to the new Council? The Revenue Member is Pandit Suraj Baul, a favourite of Colonel Nisbet's. He is thoroughly uneducated and does not know a word of English. The Pandit is a man of the *amla* class, who has risen from a very low position. His great recommendation, of course, is that he has no opinions of his own and is always ready to yield to his superiors. Another Member, Golam Mohiud-din Khan, was a sub-inspector of police, on very small pay, only a short while ago, and that fact is sufficient to show what sort of training he has had. The Judicial Member Pandit Bhag Ram, has had some English education and is fairly intelligent and independent, but he was not a man of any extraordinary experience or marked ability, and cannot be compared with the Maharaja's nominee, Babu Pratul Chunder Chatterjee, who was set aside in his favour. Of the Maharaja's brothers, it is enough to say, in the words of Lord Dufferin, that they "are still young, and have had little opportunity of acquiring practical experience in administrative work." As a matter of fact, the present Government of Kashmir is not a whit better, if it is not in many respects worse. The writer in *India* says:—"Sirdar Roop Sing is carrying on his work [as Governor of Kashmir] exactly in the same way and on the same lines as did all his predecessors, Dr. Sorajbal excepted, who did his best to root out abuses. The officials under him, both at head-quarters and in the districts, are the same band of subordinates that Kashmir has always known. If anything could have justified the Indian Government's action, it was the conduct of these men. Yet they are untouched and unreformed. Rules, methods of procedure, tax dealing as before, remain unaltered. At Jummoo, Pandit Radhakissen is the governor.* * * Here also, everything is carried on exactly as before: the same office hands, the same subordinates at head quarters, and the same officials at districts—officials alleged to be corrupt two years ago; assuredly they are no better now. Neither of these governors make tours in their districts to check the work of their subordinates. The same rules, the same regulations, the same practices—everything exactly is carried on now as when the Maharaja was in powers." If so, will the apologists of the Government of India explain how the people of Kashmir and Jummoo benefited by the deposition of their Maharaja? We pause for a reply.

THE MUNICIPALITY AGAIN.

THE Corporation officials have strange notions of duty, which would not be put up with in Government employ, or even in private employ. Not long ago we had occasion to refer to the strange doings of a distinguished official, who voted himself a bonus for his legitimate work, in the face of a distinct resolution of the Commissioners to the contrary. He comes up again in a somewhat disagreeable light in another concern, which we cannot better describe than by quoting from a morning contemporary as to what took place in regard to it at the meeting of Thursday last:

> When the question of sanctioning the payment of Rs. 2, 243-2-6 on account of certain work done to the premises No. 1. Municipal Office-Street came off for consideration there was a hot discussion. Babu Lall Behari Bysack, in moving that the matter referred back to the general committee for reconsideration, drew attention to the fact that the expenditure had been incurred by the engineering department in deliberate defiance of the commissioners, who, in March last, had in general meeting assembled, refused to incur any expense of the kind. When the engineer proposed to occupy the premises, in preference to another house which was available, he had assured the commissioners that the house was quite suitable for the accommodation of his office, and that the municipality would be put to no expense to alter it. Shortly after his removal into the house, Mr. Kimber submitted a Bill for Rs. 400 for clearing it up. Again soon afterwards he submitted another Bill for Rs. 900 for alterations made to the building, which the commissioners refused to sanction; and, yet inspite of their distinct refusal, Mr. Kimber had made those and other alterations and now came up for the payment of the bill. The engineer was a servant of the Corporation and yet he trifled with, and defied his employers, and if the commissioners sanctioned the expenditure they would stultify themselves and offer a dangerous position of disobedience. It would be better for them to refuse than to countenance such disrespect on the part of the executive.

The "hot discussion" ended in the defeat of Babu Lalbehari Bysak's proposition, for although there was a general feeling that the engineer was guilty of a grave irregularity, no body wanted so high an official to be hauled over the coals. The result is natural, namely, these officials cease to care for the commissioners, and if they would not always positively "deprecate" their doings, they have the calm satisfaction of knowing that "hot discussions" will always end in a smoke. None but the bravest of spirits, therefore, care to disturb the hornets' nest to no purpose, and the Executive comes to have its own way in all matters unless Mr. Lee is wide awake. The question at issue in this instance was not so much whether the expenditure on its own merit should not be allowed. There is a strong element of misrepresentation to be taken into consideration—misrepresentation by which the engineer had deliberately prevented a more eligible house nearer the main office being taken at a higher rent, and on the representation that No 1. Municipal Office Street required no outlay whatsoever for fitting it up for office use. The other element to be considered is that he incurred expenditure not only without sanction but positively against sanction, and knowing full well that such sanction should not be made.

The facts in connection with this little episode are of a somewhat startling character and throw a powerful side-light on Municipal administration. No. 2 Grants Street had been fixed upon for accommodation of the Engineer's office as the Main Office was too crowded. But No. 2 GrantsStreet, though far nearer to the Main Office than No. 1 Municipal Street, and costing only Rs. 250 a month, was owned by a native who had no influence in the Corporation. Inspite of a Sub-Committee appointed to decide as to which would be the most suitable local habitation for the Engineer's office, the Chairman and the Engineer in cool supercession of the Sub-Committee hit upon No. 1 Municipal office Street, belonging to a lady named Mrs. Monk. The understanding was that no expenditure would be incurred for fitting up the house for the office and that the office had simply to move into the house. The Commissioners thus informed put up with the inconvenience of distance and agreed to pay a rent of 400 Rs. a month! On the 1st March 1890, the Engineer came up with a modest estimate of Rs. 900 for clearing the premises, besides 400 Rs. for drainage, and latrine accommodation brought up at a previous meeting. It was felt that Mrs. Monk, from whom the sub-lease was taken, should be called upon to do what was necessary to put the house in a condition fit for occupation, and that certain works were not at all necessary. The Engineer was then requested to revise the estimate as to what was absolutely necessary, which was never done. There is nothing to show that Mrs. Monk was called upon to do what the Commissioners expected of her. The Engineer knew his customers well enough to pay the slightest heed to their recommendations, and had every thing in his own way, till the Vice-Chairman objected to his bill, not because it had been not sanctioned, but because it had been positively *refused* to be sanctioned. It is interesting to know in this connection that the Accountant pays away ever so many thousand rupees worth of bills on the strength of Mr. Kimber's signature, or initials, and in expectation of *probable* sanction. The matter referred to above by the merest accident came up before the Commissioners again, and it was urged that nothing should be sanctioned that had been incurred after the resolutions of the 1st of March. Babu Joygobindo Law pointed out with great force that it was not the question merely of expense, but what the Commissioners objected to was that the officer in charge spent money in spite of the interdiction of the expense. The statement showing the work done before and after the date of the resolution in question, however, never came to be submitted, though an express resolution in that behalf was recovered. But wonder followed wonder, and it was discovered that the expenditure was really 100 Rs. less than it was stated before by a mistake. Mistakes like these must often be made in this well-equipped office, and to what extent the rate-payers and their representatives never know. In this particular instance it would not have been known but for this rather unseemly wrangling over *trifles* for which some Commissioners are gaining notoriety. Mr. Lee who has already proved himself a far stronger Chairman than his predecessor, had to admit that it was very wrong of the Engineer not to have explained at once how he came to get done the works in the face of the refusal of the Commissioners to sanction his smaller estimate. An example should have been made in a case like this, making the defaulting

officer pay for the works which he undertook in direct disobedience of the Commissioners' orders. But we live in strange times and *khairkhans* will protect their *proteges*, no matter how rate-payers and office efficiency suffer thereby.

Latest News and Notes.

SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT has gone on a flying visit to Midnapore. His Honor left town on Thursday and is expected back day after to-morrow to be in time for the meeting of the Dufferin-Lansdowne Fund. His Honor's next tour will be in Chittagong from where he is expected back on the 15 instant, keeping away from the Presidency for the rest of the month. At Midnapore Sir Charles sternly set his face against Municipal funds being wasted on his welcome. Will some other Governors profit by the example thus set to them. But Sir Charles' welcome was not any the less hearty for that, for the local nobility and gentry made for what the Munipality was justly prevented from doing.

SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT may, according to a contemporary, go up to Darjiling early this year, and in all probability will remain there till the rains, when he will proceed on a tour in the plains after the manner of his predecessor.

THE first Criminal Sessions of the High Court for the current year will be held on the 18th instant, and will be presided over by Mr. Justice Tottenham.

MR. F. J. Marsden having been granted seven months' extraordinary leave without pay, Mr. A. P. Handley will continue to act as Chief Presidency Magisrtate.

THE *Englishman* states that Sir Andrew Scoble does not go to Simla before retiring, but leaves Bombay on the 7th of April. Sir Alexander Miller enters upon his duties at Simla.

MR. MACKAY, and not Mr. Turner, succeeds Sir Alexander Wilson in the Council. He took his seat on Friday last. It is said that Mr. Turner could not take up the appointment as he shortly leaves for England.

THE Bengal Police Commission will close it proceedings on the 17th instant, the day originally fixed. A suggestion that it should proceed on a tour of enquiry has not been entertained. It might as well have never been appointed or met at all. For real reform the evidence ought to be the best available and the worst feature of the enquiry is that no competent Police officers have been given an opportunity of expressing their opinions and making suggestions out of the pure departmental groove.

AT last Friday's meeting of the Legislative Council, on the motion of the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Scoble the Bill to amend the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, as amended, was passed; the reports of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Indian Evidence Act 1872, and the Code of Criminal Procedure 1882, were presented. A Bill to amend the constitution of the Court of the Judical Commissioner of Oudh, and to alter the law with respect to second appeals and other matters in that Province, and a Bill to amend the Law of Evidence and with respect to banker's books were also introduced.

SIR CHARLES ELLIOT paid a visit to the Mayo Hospital on Tuesday last, and remained inspecting the wards for over an hour. His Honor was informed that the institution is nearly a century old, the first meeting of the Committee having been held in September, 1792. It is the oldest hospital in Calcutta. The Lieutenant Governor expressed satisfaction at the supervision, and also with the financial state of the institution, although the Government annuity had been reduced by Rs. 3,000, which was represented to be a great hardship. His Honor promised to consider the matter.

THE fourteenth annual meeting of the National Indian Association was held at the Belvedere on Tuesday last. The report which was adopted shows:—

The Association had struggled on with varied success for fourteen years, and is at present doing excellent work. In the month of January 1891, Rs. 200 was paid as scholarships to teachers at the Baranagore boarding school To the Entally Hindoo girl's school they gave Rs. 28 as scholarships. This is only a day-school but one of the best in the suburbs. Twelve pupils have gone up for examination this year, but the result is not yet known. Nine girls passed last year. There are 105 day scholars. Two of the Hindoo widows who held scholarships last year have secured situations, one as an articled pupil at the Dufferin Zenana Hospital, to be trained as a nurse at a Women's Hospital at Tezpore.

SIR Charles Elliott, who was in the chair, said:—

The first impression which the report must make on the minds of those unacquainted with the work of the Association was that a very high-sounding title had been used for a very small piece of work. When the Association was founded it consisted of only two widows, but it had now increased to fifteen. This showed what very valuable work this Association had been doing perhaps not in quantity but in quality, and how much labour and thought and self-devotion had been given to the subject on the part of those who had been the principal promoters of this institution. The speaker said that he had not the opportunity of visiting the institution, but he and Lady Elliott would gladly respond to the desire and would occupy the position which Sir Steuart and Lady Bayley occupied, and he could assure them of their complete sympathy with the object of the institution and their desire to help and assist them as far as lay in their power. He had no doubt that next year he would be able to speak on the subject with some personal knowledge of the manner in which the work was carried on, and the good which it had produced. As to the Entally school, the speaker said that Lady Elliott had visited it, and she gave a most encouraging report of it.

VARYING reports are afloat concerning an agreement having been arrived at between the Irish and Liberal leaders, but nothing is certain. It is believed that the Irish members have not yet agreed among themselves as to the course they will pursue.

IT WAS privately reported in London, that Grand Duke George of Russia had injured his spine by falling from the main top of the Russian flagship, *Asova*, while on the passage out to India. On enquiring at the ship *Asova*, at Bombay, however, it was found that the Grand Duke had not had any accident of the kind. This is a piece of a rumour that floated about for sometime, with strange persistency that the Cesarewitch had been shot at by a wild Afgan in some city of Northern India during his recent tour. The Grand Duke is now on his way home to St. Petersburg, and has not been able to join his royal brother in his voyage. The Prince arrived at Madras on Friday where he met with right royal welcome. His stay was short and he proceeded to Trichinapoly on Saturday. Then he goes to Tanjore and ultimately to Tuticorn.

THE Maharaja of Benares who was lately in indifferent health is now much better. His Highness arrived in the Presidency on Tuesday last. The Maharaja paid an official visit to the Viceroy on Wednesday under the customary military honors and the visit was returned on Thursday by His Excellency.

GENERAL regrets have been expressed in the House of Commons at Mr. Bradlaugh's death. Owing to his unconscious condition he never learned before his death that the House had expunged from its Journals the resolution precluding him from taking the oath.

THE Ripon College and the City College were closed on Tuesday in memory of Mr. Bradlaugh.

SOME of the leading members tof the Calcutta community met at the house of Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee on Thursday last to consider what should be done for purpetuating Mr. Bradlaugh's memory. A requisition to the Sheriff of Calcutta for convening a public meeting at the Town Hall is being largely and influentially signed.

THE Chuckdigi suit has been dismissed by Mr. Crawford, District Judge of Hooghly. The services of the Advocate-General on the side of the plaintiff and those of Messrs. Woodroffe, Evans and Rash Behary Ghose for the defendants were secured, at the time the arguments were progressing. The judge found that Babu Lalit Mohun Singh Ray has an absolute and heritable right to the whole of the property by the will of Babu Sarada Prasad Ray. The court had declined to give any decision on the subject of defeasance on the happening of certain events, as contemplated in the will. The litigation will of course not stop here.

THE Jain defamation case is drawing to a close and the protracted hearing may be expected to end this week. The defence called a number of witnesses in justification of the libel, and Mr. Phillips closed his address on its behalf on Friday. Mr. Woodroffe is now addressing the jury on behalf of the prosecution, and it is expected that his address and the judge's charge will take some little time.

UNIVERSITY frauds are becoming rather infectious. At the last week's Entrance Examination a boy tried to personate another, and was caught, with the result that criminal proceedings have been instituted against both. We hope the delinquents will be severely punished for the good name of the University. Its good name, however, suffers a good deal, unless some of the Examiners in the meantime be proceeded against for their shameful ignorance of our Vernaculars. The Bengali translation paper would do discredit even to the missionary of the olden days. It is misleading to a degree for no Bengali student can make out what may be meant by খনিজ অতি প্রাচুর্য্য or নথর ভাবে The candidates were not expected to know anything of minerals and yet in the Physical Geography paper they are seriously asked to differentiate their qualities. In the English paper, a number of "out questions" have found their way, which will be found difficult nuts to crack in most cases.

THE long-felt want of a public hall for the Hindu population of Darjeeling is about to be removed. The matter has been taken up in earnest by the community interested, and a committee has been appointed to collect subscriptions in support of the movement. The Committee has already secured a plot of land known as the "Pony ground," free of rent whereon to erect the proposed Hall. His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar with his usual liberality heads the subscription list with a donation of Rs. 1,000, and the projectors of the hall hope to secure sufficient funds to start the building shortly.

WE much regret to hear that Sir Charles Crosthwaite is very poorly in health. Shortly after taking charge of Public Works portfolio in succession to Sir Charles Elliott, he fell ill the effects of which he has not been able to shake off yet and and he proposes shortly to go to England on sick leave. It is apprehended that Burma climate must have seriously told on Sir Charles' health. Colonel Pemberton of the Public Works Department officiates for him in the Council while he is away.

IT is stated that the Viceroy has consented to open the Bengal-Nagpore Railway on March 3rd. The ceremony is likely to be performed at the junction of the Assensole-Chakardarpore section with that further to the south.

IN consequence of the Chamber of Deputies voting against Signor Crispi's financial scheme, Signor Crispi and his Cabinet have tendered their resignation. The French journals are

jubilant over the fall of Signor Crispi and his Cabinet, and hope that it may modify Italy's adhesion to the Triple Alliance.

THE annual meeting of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce takes place to-morrow. The Hon'ble Mr. Mackay has been re-elected Chairman of the Chamber,

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A SPECIAL general metting of the British Indian Association will be held at 3 P. M. on Wednesday to consider the Age of Consent Bill. A strong muster of the members is expected.

MR. HUME has written a second letter to the *Statesman* on the age of consent question. We are glad it is conciliatory and reasonable to a degree. But there is one passage in it not connected with the express object of his second letter, which we quote here at length with pleasure :

It is within measurable distance of the fruition of its best hopes, the tentative introduction of the elective system into the Government of India. How do I make that out? Simply thus: last year being doubtful of the Viceroy's attitude, we blocked Lord Cross's Bill, we are quite strong enough to repeat this process this year, but though we shall not omit to press amendments in the sense of the late Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill (and probably lose them all), we shall let the Bill pass. As soon as it has passed, the Viceroy, under the discretionary power vested in him by Lord Northbrook's amendment, will devise an elective system of slection for some of the non-official members. I do not for a moment assert that he will adopt the Congress or any other yet published scheme, but he will devise some wise and cautious scheme for introducing an elective element into the Council. He will take the first real step a step to be for ever memorable in the history of India towards the introduction of Representative Ins. titutions. How do I know? Has the Vicreoy told me? Certainly not. I had the honour of two long interviews with His Excellency, but not one word passed on this subject. Had it done so, I could not now write so freely on the subject as I do. But I have worked personally and directly with every Viceroy India has had, and I claim to be able to understand men's characters. I look round at the present position of the country. I remember the liberality of the views expressed by Lord Northbrook when introducing his amendment ; and feeling confident that Lord Lansdowne is in no way behind Northbrook in his liberalism, or his sincere desire for the welfare of India, I cannot doubt for one moment the general character of the action that will be take under the Bill.

The Viceroy's attitude to the Congress is what it should be, and our expectation of his support and sympathy is great. Now or never is the time to support the Congress cause, for between the Scylla of open enemity and this of Cherybdes of pretended or mistaken friendliness, we are in great danger, and it will need a masterly hand to rescue us from this perilous position. Mr. Hume has addressed circular letters to all the Congress Committees exhorting them to make known very generally to the Princes and people of India that the Viceroy has formally declared that the Congress is a perfectly legitimate movement ; that every one, not a Government official, is perfectly free to join it ; and that all officials are explicitly enjoined not to put any pressure on any one to induce them to abstain from aiding or joining it. In the same circular letter Mr. Hume strongly impresses upon these Congress Committees that it is our duty, while absolutely abstaining from any note of triumph over the officials—from any word that may embitter further a feud that we can now afford to ignore and suffer to fade into oblivion—to show in the most unmistakeable manner how highly we appreciate Lord Lansdowne's courageous vindication of popular liberty of speech and action in political matters ; and how grateful we feel to him for this charter of civil liberty.' He also suggests that the Viceroy should be publicly thanked for his attitude towards us. In all this the *Pioneer*, the *Englishman* and the *Indian Daily News* see, and we dare say the *Times* will see, diplomacy, and the *St. James Gazette* also sedition and all that. If is all that our detractors are prepared to charge us with, but the enlightened British public will know what it really is. Mr. Hume's circular letter, as all our Congress circulars are, is private and confidential and our Anglo-Indian contemporaries by publishing it has not so much injured our cause as their own. There is nothing to scoff or flout at that we can perceive. The officials are nettled at the Viceroy's friendly attitude and are trying their best to injure us yet if possible. For ourselves our wonder always was why a perfectly legitimate body like the Congress should not be occasionally taken into the confidence of Government, as the other respectable political associations of the country are. The mistake that Mr. Hume and some of his Congress friends have made in connection with the Consent Bill is capable of reparation, and will be repaired with returning good sense, of which some including our friend of the *Vaidik* sage of the *Indian. Mirror* are showing hopeful idications. Congress cause should not be allowed to suffer on any account. If any thing, we repeat it has now to be strengthened more than ever and God willing it will be.

THERE is one interrogatory of our catechists which we think it our duty to take some notice of. And that is one of analogies that are as usual false. If young wives with prospects of consummation may go wrong why not young widows as well should go same way, and if our reasoning be correct, we are seriously told, *a fortiori* young widows must in all cases be mentally unchaste. It does not follow, say we. The young widow, by the time, she has attained puberty is sufficiently precocious in this country to know her fate, and if she has been brought up in the proper way will never allow her thoughts to be diverted to sullied channels. Holy *Bramhacharya* with its rigid austerities, if duly observed, will have sufficiently armoured her body and mind for the srtuggle with flesh, and victory is always hers if she is in the right mood. If not, mental chastity, signifies no more to her than physical chastity and with such your concern is little indeed. The Hindu legislator, whom the animal kingdom with its varied experiences added to his own philosophic insight into human nature grasped the situation at once, and tried to provide against possible contingencies. He, therefore, prescribes downright *Bramhacharya* even in case of the young wife just attaining puberty, which would have to be observed indefinitely in case of deferred consummation. We have touched upon this aspect of the question in a previous issue, and need now only remind the reader of the meritorious *Vrata* of our young ladies which enjoins continuous association with the husband between the first signs of puberty and actual pregnancy. Not for a day is the wife to be away from her lord (for the strict observance of this *Vrata*, which unfortunately is falling into disuse now-a-days among our 'educated circles' and the "better classes." Perhaps with its stricter observance might our homes be nearer in happiness, peace and contentment to the olden homes.

IN this connection it is impossible not to observe once more that non-observance of the necessary safeguards is the real root of all the evil that Government and reformers pretend to complain of. The evils are a creation essentially of the modern times, and the so-called civilized modes of living. The young graduate with his University ideas of matrimony looks with horror upon a strict observance of the *Dviragaman* ceremony that would keep the husband and wife practically separate at least for a year. Another wholesome rule disregarded now-a-days is about parents' arranging for the young husband's visits to his father-in-law's house, where the wife stops by the custom of the country for some time after marriage. Husbands and wives now-a-days freely associate with each other during the periods of restriction, and diurnal visits to the Zenana, without of course the western refinement, is more the order of the day than exception. The rigid rules regulating the old Hindu's conjugal relations are scrupulously disregarded in the 'better circles' except perhaps that as to the earliest possible consummation, and legislative aid is invoked in the name of reform for the cure of evils that are deliberately created and brought forth by the reigning order of things. The inordinate difference in the age between the husband and wife in some cases is answerable for many a mishap and as the girl *cannot* be kept from being married beyond a certain age, the more rational reform would seem to be the prevention and not promotion of late marriages by our young men. It is unfair to complain of a system after you have done your very best to bring its different component parts shemily to malodour and disrepute. It is veritabl th even a dog a bad name then hanging it Poss givingy "better classes" need legislation.. Let have it by all means. But the other classes should not be troubled.

APART from the aspects of the question discussed above, namely the physical and mental, there is a higher aspect which ought not to be lost sight of, namely economic and spiritual. The Hindu than whom no one ever evinced greater concern and solicitude for spiritual welfare had one single object in married life, namely to beget a son that would save him from hell and perdition. He, moreover, required a protector for his widow and proprietor of his estate when he was dead and gone, and in a community that puts all possible discount on widow-marriage, is it a wonder that the first possible opportunity should be sought for begetting a son if possible, let alone the important questions of *sanskara* which also arises in this concern. If any thing should happen to the husband without availing of the opportunity that may have presented itself for perpetuation of his race, the calamity from the Hindu point of view would be supreme. Early consummation in this sense has been beneficial to many a family and household by providing them with an heir when that was least expected. This is an important bearing of the question which has to be considered as well as any other.

SCIENCE, sociology, physiology, politics, economies, common sense, sanitation, humanity and the whole host of other things have been flung to our face and with alternate frowns and cajolery have we been asked if we are not acting only a part in thus defending Hinduism. Perhaps we are, as our orthodoxy is of a skin deep kind in modern parlance. But we do not see why as advocates we should not be permitted to act a part, if sham and cant can be so plentifully allowed in the reformer. The latest development in the reforming phenomenon is the growth of orthodoxy where none existed before, probably because it is felt that a blow is never more effective than when it comes from inside and in the name of society. It is, therefore, a part of the reformer's plan to discredit real orthodoxy by feigning it, or in other words, by pretending to Government that they themselves are orthodox Hindus of the first water who heartily support and approve of the Bill. Mr. Hume may have been able to get hold of a parcel of mischievous busy bodies, properly proud of connection with respectable families, whose good name they are doing their best to drag through the mire. Government may make much of these pseudo-orthodox memorials and deputations, but it is as well that their value and character should be justly understood. We desire to say no more in this connection than that many promises to join the deputation and many signatures to the memorial have been obtained upon the understanding that the movement was in opposition to the Bill. But we do not wish to characterise these proceedings, for Brutus is an honorable man. There have lately been indications of returning good sense in some cases, but in others the delirium still continues ; they want to strengthen the hands of Government, support the cause of reform, punish the prejudices of their countrymen, and in short, to hold a public meeting at the Town Hall, and do a lot of other heroic things to prove that it does not matter in the least to them whether the country is ruined ; but they are not going to lose this opportunity of earning a little notoriety and showing to the Anglo-Indian world that they are "martyrs to their conviction." They have done the country and the community injury enough, and they cannot do much worse. Nobody ever saw that they do not agree with

the country and the community on a variety of matters, but when they are so far enlightened they might as well let us alone; their own sense of right will save them from the necessity of legislation, and as to ourselves, they need be exercised over our misfortunes. We have simply no patience with such arrant nonsense and crass stupidity.

THE *Ardhodaya yoga*, which took place yesterday after a lapse of twenty-seven years, drew vast concourses of Hindu pilgrims to Calcutta and other places on the Ganges, the Hooghly and the Bhagirathi. They mustered strongest of course in holy places like Kalighat, Navaddwip and Tribeni, not to speak of Benares and Allahabad. The resources of Kalighat, and Calcutta for the matter of that, were taxed to their uttermost capacity, and there has rarely been such a rush of pilgrims towards our part of the country for sometime. The discomforts and inconveniences attendant upon these journeys and sojourns are borne in a manner that Hindu devotion to religion alone could prompt. The railway authorities did their best to provide for the enormous traffic and proved themselves equal to the occasion, though cylinder-shaped jute waggons had to be impressed into service. Every available miserable lodging was taken up at fancy rents, literally packed in places where the Pilgrims lodging Act does not obtain, and food and drink, that would be abomination at any other time, were all that could be had in many cases. The public authorities are to be congratulated upon the efficient manner in which order was preserved inspite of the enormous crowds and sanitary precautions were taken as much as possible. Cholera and fever, however, are raging, and it is apprehended that their work is yet hardly done. Advantage was taken of the presence of so many Hindu devotees from the different parts of the country, and crowded open-air mass meetings were held in different parts of the town and Suburbs in condemnation of the Scoble Bill. The Kalighat meeting yesterday presided over by Paribrajak Kumar Srikrishna Prasanna Sen was the most successful of these. There were monster gatherings at the Ghats to consider the measure after the bathing hours.

KUMAR Sri Krishna Prassanna addressed two other protest meetings last week, one in the open air in Wellington Square on Saturday, and the other in the Cornwallis Street near the Sadharan Brambo Somaj. The agitation in the town and the Mafassil is daily gaining strength and ground, and we are being literally flooded with accounts of meetings all over the country, a hundredth part of which we have not space enough for publication. We make room elsewhere only for some telegraphic summaries and short notes.

AT the graduate's meeting at the Star Theatre on Tuesday last Dr. Jagabandhu Bose, M. D., was in the chair. He was supported by many influential Hindu and Mussulman graduates of long standing, and none but graduates took part in the deliberations of the meeting, or voted on the resolutions, though some non-graduates were present as spectators. There was some opposition in the beginning which ultimately gave way and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

I. That this meeting while fully appreciating the generous intention of the Government in introducing the Age of Consent Bill, and while strongly condemning all consummations of marriage before the attainment of puberty by the views, is of opinion that the existing laws in the country, the precepts of the Hindu Shastras and the customs and usages of the Hindus and Mahommedans alike are sufficient for the protection aimed at by the Bill, and that no fresh legislation is necessary,

Proposed by Babu Prannath Saraswati, and seconded by Babu Devendra Nath Chuckerbutty, M. A., and supported by Babu Shama Prasunna Mozumdar, M. A. B. L.

II. That the proposed Bill, if passed into law, will interfere with the religious duties and social customs of the Hindus, and it is, therefore, opposed to the established principle of the legislation in this country, and the solemn pledges repeatedly given by the British Government to the people of India.

Proposed by Raja Peary Mohun Mookerji, C. S. I. and seconded by Babu Golap Chunder Sastri, M. A. B. L., and supported by Babu Hirendra Nath Dutt, M. A., and Babu Lalit Chunder Mitter, M. A.

III. That the collateral and consequential evils, in the form of false prosecutions, perjury, forgery, annoyance, and insult, likely to result from the operation of the Act, if the Bill, in its present form were to pass into law, will more than counterbalance the good that, it is supposed, will arise therefrom, and will have a demoralising influence on society.

Proposed by Babu Bipin Behari Moitra, M. B. seconded by Syud Shamsul Huda M. A. B. L., and supported by Babu Gokul Chunder Dhur, and Mr. Mahmad Ishak.

IV. That this meeting begs most respectfully to submit the following suggestions to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council in case His Excellency the Governor-General in council should think it absolutely necessary to legislate in the matter:

(a) That the Act of Consent be fixed not at twelve years, but at the attainment of puberty by girls, so the protection be as well extended to girls, attaining puberty later.

(b) That prosecutions for the offence be initiated by he girl's parents and other natural and legal guardians.

t (c) That the trial may, in all cases, be by a Jury.

(d) That the offence be made punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term or fine or both.

(f) That all possible publicity be given to the Bill, if passed, and that for that purpose, the operation of the Act be suspended for some time.

Proposed by Babu Surendra Nath Mitter, M. A., B.L., seconded by Babu Abinash Chunder Bose, M.A., and supported by Babu Siva Prosunno Bhattacherji B.A. B.L.

THE Sobhabazar Committee has published the following opinion of fifty medical men, both European and Native, condemning the Bill. We regret we cannot make room for all but have to content ourselves with a hurried summary of what the daily papers have published *in extenso*. The medical opinion, we were gravely told is unanimous in favour of raising the age and the latest instalment of it will no doubt come upon Government as a surprise:

Dr. Jugga Bundu Bose, M.D., who has practised in Calcutta for over 36 years, both as a physician and *accoucheur*, states that he has never been called upon to attend a single case in which injury of the kind deal, with by the Bill has been inflicted upon an immaturt wife. He has known of innumerable cases in which girls of twelve have borne children without detriment of their own health, or any degeneracy to their offspring. Such children have been as healthy as any children could bee and their mothers were not subjected to any permanent injury or protracted convalescence. He goes on to discuss the question at considerable length on physiological and religious grounds.

Surgeon-Major J. F. P. McConnell—Has promised to send a detailed reply shortly, after making certain enquiries, but in the meantime he states "that he does not recollect having seen a single case of the kind" of cruelty which it is proposed to legislate against.

Dr. Chandra Mohan Ghose, M. B., B.A., writes:—"To my personal knowledge I have never had a case of cruelty to girls of tender age. To right-minded men moral convictions are more effective as a deterrent than punitive legislation." To this opinion Dr. Jadub Krissore Ghosh, late Assistant Surgeon to the Viceroy and Dr. Shama Churn Lahiri, append their signatures with "I concur." Dr. Doyal Chandra Shome says the same thing, but adds that "such injuries are not common."

Dr. Debendra Nath Roy, Teacher, Campbell Medical School; Assistant Surgeon Dr. Amrito K. Bose, speaking after 23 years' experience both as a public servant and a private practitioner; and Dr. Brijo Nath Chowdhuri, who has had 16 years' experience in Bengal. Behar and Assam, all alike state that they had never heard of an instance of such cruelty, until that of a recent prosecution occurred.

Retired Assistant Surgeon Sree Nath Mukerjee, with 41 years' experience both in the public service and as a private practitioner, writes: "I have never seen or heard of any case or any injury having been done by a husband to his wife, however young she may have been."

Dr. Bishva Nath Gupta of the Grant Medical College Bombay, with 37 years' experience, says: "I have not seen a single case in which cruelty to a girl of 12 years or under was perpetrated by her husband. In my opinion the existing law is sufficient to protect the child-wife from the cruelty of her husband."

Dr. Tarini Churn Bose (late House Surgeon, Campbell Mayo, and Chadney Hpspitals), with 17 years' practice states that neither in private practice nor at the several hospitals of which he held charge, did he ever have occasion to treat patients suffering from the effects of cruelty of the kind under discussion. "Regarding the attainment of puberty before the age of 12," he says "I know of cases in which girls were mothers before they reached that age, without any subsequent injury to the health either of the mother or the child."

Dr. Nobin Chandra Ghose, with 20 years' practice, Dr. Umesh Chunder Mitter, with 24 years' experience, Dr. Upendra Nath Chaterjee with 16 years' practice, and Dr. Poorno Chunder Nundy all state, that beyond the one case of Harri Maiti they have never known of any injury of the kind which could call for legislative interference.

Dr. Kedar Nath Dutta, M. B., says:—"During my practice as an obstetric surgeon I have had better opportunities of treating diseases of women than many of my contemporaries, and I have never come across a single case of cruelty perpetrated by their husbands upon tender wives," &c,

Dr. Shoshi Bhusan Sircar writes: "My experience as a medical practitioner extends over a period of more than 30 years, in the public service as well as private practice, in various parts of the country, and during this entire period not a single case was ever brought to my notice of such bodily injury caused to a girl-wife by her husband. I do not believe that those, who are for the proppsed law can cite many instances. The only two cases known to the public during the past 30 years, out of which our reformers are making so much capital, even granting that the details are true, are so rare that they hardly warrant further legislative interference, when the law as it stands, is sufficient to punish rash husbands. It is not fair to generalise from the two cases. I am at a loss to understand how the law can be administered, without gross abuse. How is the age of the outraged girl to be satisfactorily determined. The guardians of the married couple whose object it would surely be to cheat the law and avoid disgrace and imprisonment, will not produce the girl's horoscope. In that case there remains only the medical testimony. And I defy any doctor in the world to pronounce any infallible verdict on the point from physical signs and appearances only."

Here we have some of the most distinguished native and European physicians bearing unmistakable testimony to the contrary, and would not Government be bound to take their opinions, which it itself never sought before, into consideration? Many more similar opinions could be got for the asking, but Government cares not for what would not support it evidently.

THEORETICAL opinion was supposed to be unanimously in favour of the supporters of the Bill. The Sobhabazar Committee has taken good care to demonstrate that it is not so. The fifty medical practitioners whose opinions have been published by Maharaj Kumars Neelkrishna and Binoykrishna with their usual energy are all respectable men and are either in Government service or enjoy considerable practice and public confidence. They know the country and the people, and their opinion is entitled to some weight even at the hands of Government, which is determined in its own words, to raise the age. In regard to this body of medical opinion an Anglo-Indian editor, who might be expected to know better, is made to say that they have been "purchased." We cannot even be indignant at such arrant silliness, though those immediately concerned may well be. Whether they will sit quiet under such clear and outrageous libel is more than we care to enquire into. We are told that Dr. Coates, who is in our midst once more, and has set up in private practice, perfectly agrees with the fifty-four Doctors and Kabirajes, whose opinions we are coolly told have been purchased by the Kumars. Among the Doctors and Kabirajes thus basely vilified by Editorial "reality" are Surgeon Major McConnel, Drs. Jagobundhu Bose, Chundra Mohun Ghose, Doyal Chunder Shome, Debendra Nath Roy, Grish Chunder Mitter, Brojendra Nath Banerjee, Dhurmo Das Bose, Rai Ramnarain Das Bahadur, Rai Lalmadhub Mukerjee Bahadur, Babu Huronath Roy, Dr. R. R. Kerr, Babu Kalikissen Bagchi, Monmotho Nath Dutt, Sreenath Bhuttacharjee, Amritalal Mukerjee, Kaviraj Gunga Prosad Sen Gupta, Dwarka Nath Sen, and Dr. Salzer.

MR. Hume's conclusion that the opposition movement is confined wholly and solely to Bengal has been already abundantly disproved. The feeling is all the same every where, only it is here and there expressed rather feebly because of the defective machinery in hand owing to the Reform Camp having a monopoly of demonstration tactics. But the mist is being gradually cleared away as the following Bombay telegrams will show:

Bombay, Feb. 1.—A preliminary meeting at which about 150 leaders of different Hindu castes, including Mahamahopadyas, merchants, religious heads of sects, High Court advocates, pleaders, doctors, graduates, attended, was held in Madhavbag to-day, the President being Shet Varjivondass Madhavdas, to arrange for a public meeting to adopt a protest against Sir Andrew Scoble's Bill. It was resolved to call a general meeting of the sympathisers of the resolution for Sunday next.

The Honorary Secretary, appointed at a public meeting held at the Sobha Bazar Rajbati, in connection with the Age of Consent Bill, has received the following telegram from Goverdhun Dass Gocul Dass Tejpal Esq., Bombay:—"My community feeling generally against Bill. Public meeting, Sunday next." Mr. Hurkissen Dass, Narrotum Dass has also wried to the same effect.

We also notice that the inhabitants of Naidad in the Kaira District, Bombay, have in a public meeting assembled sent to the Secretary of State a strong memorial urging against introduction of any measnre interfering with strict religious neutrality of Government.

A CALCUTTA telegram to the Lahore paper says:—"The agitation against the Age of Consent Bill is being carried on vehemently all over Bengal. Meetings are being held at the most important towns, and show that the orthodox Hindus are dead against the Bill. Even cultured Natives in favour of the Bill, seem to think Government cannot pass it, in its present form, without flying in the face of child-marriage and Hindu social usages. The opinions of the principal native officials have just been asked for by the Bengal Government on the point. Advanced natives, however, look upon the agitation as sentimental." Government has now called for an expression of opinion from non-official native gentlemen which should have been done long before placing the Bill on the legislative anvil. Better late, however than never, and we are glad of Governmental action in the matter of non-official opinion in this sense. We are afraid, however, that the real representatives of the people have in many cases been overlooked and canning hypocrites under the garb of orthodoxy will get the preference. Pseudo-orthodoxy of this character cannot be too strongly denounced and against it has Government to be very specially careful. We have good reasons for believing that many European officials who know the people and the country are opposed to the Bill, and we would suggest that their opinions should be sought and published as well as the opinions of distinguished native officials such as the judges of the High Court. But all this will require time. The Bill should, therefore, not be hurried on with haste as it is being done and the instruction to the Select Committee to report on the Bill within five weeks should be recalled. The Select Committee ought to consider the memorials to Government, the opinions of our Pandits and the proceedings of the numerous protest meetings that are being daily held throughout the country.

AS announced before a crowded and successful meeting to protest against the Bill was held at Bhowanipore on Sunday before last when Rai Kunjalal Bannerjee Bahadur presided. Among the speakers of the evening were Pandits Rakhaldas Nayaratna, Krishnadas Vedantabagish, Joychunder Sidhantabhusan, Grishchunder Tarkalankar, and Babus Ambica Churn Bose, Srish Chunder Chowdhury, and Biprodas Mukerjea.

THE Shibpur meeting which also was held on Sunday before last was equally successful. Pandit Brahmabrata Samadhyai was in the chair and among the speakers against the Bill were Pandits Rupram Nayratna, Bamandas Siromoni, and Tincury Smritiratna. The same day another succesful meeting was held at Kidderpur at the instance of the Bhukailash Rajas and was presided over by Rai Lal Madhub Mukerjee Bahadur.

WE make room for the following telegrams:—

Khurdhah, Feb. 1.—A crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held to-day at Khurdah, Barrackpore, under the presidentship of Babu Promotho Nath Mookerjee, to condemn the Age of Consent Bill on the ground that it was oppossed to the Hindu religion. Pundit Nundun Gopal Goswamy and Babu Bhobo Nath Banerjee addressed the meeting.

Dum-Dum, Feb. 2.—A meeting was held at Gopalpore, Dum-Dum, to-day and strongly protested against the Age of Consent Bill. There was a large gathering of Hindus and Mahomedans, and enthusiasm prevailed. The Viceroy was telegraphed to.

Burdwan, Feb. 2 A meeting of Hindus and Mahomedans was held here on the 31st. Jan. to protest against the Age of Consent Bill. It was unanimously resolved to ask Government to reject the Bill on the grounds that it is unnecessary and is calculated to infringe our religious customs and usages.

Mallikpore (Naul), Jan. 31 A meeting of the inhabitants of this place was held on Monday last to protest against the Age of Consent Bill.

Gopalpore, Feb. 1.—A public meeting to protest against the Age of Consent Bill was held at Gopalpore, Baroaritolla at 4 P. M. this day. Pandit Kally Prosunna Bidyaratna addressed the meeting.

Mymensing, Feb. 2.—A meeting of the Mahomedan community was held here yesterday in the *Bag mujid* to protest against the Age of Consent Bill.

Dacca, Feb. 3.—Another protest meeting was held at Jagannath College on Sunday last for five hours. Mahomedans took part in it with Hindus. Protest based religion and usage. Pandit Trilochan Tarkalankar presided.

Midnapore, Feb. 2.—Yesterday a meeting protesting against the Consent Bill was held at the Bayley Hall. Resolutions disapproving of legislative interference were passed unanimously. Respectable Hindus, Mahomedans and native Christians attended, including pandits and moulvies.

Commilla, Feb. 2—A meeting at which zemindars, pleaders, muktears and influential Hindus and Mahomedans attended was held here yesterday. Resolutions against the Age of Consent Bill were carried by acclamation. Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter was thanked. Government is to be memorialised.

Jessore, Feb. 2—A meeting of Hindus and Mahomedans, about 500 in all, was held here yesterday, Raja Gyanoda-Kant Roy presiding. Resolutions protesting against the Consent Bill as affecting the religion of the Hindoos, in so far as in effects the observance of the *garbadhan* ceremony and other social customs, were passed unanimously. Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter was thanked.

LOCAL.

THE AGE OF CONSENT BILL.

FROM

RAJA RAJENDRALALA MITRA,
LL. D., C. I. E.,

To

SIR J. WARE EDGAR,
K. C. I. E., C. S. I.

Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal

8, Maniktallh Road, Calcutta, the 7th February 1891

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 22nd ultimo, with annexures requesting the expression of my opinion on the Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. In reply I beg to submit the following remarks for the consideration of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

2. In his "Statement of Objects and Reasons" Sir A. Scoble states that "the limit at which the age of consent is now fixed favours premature consummation by adult husbands of marriages with children who have not reached the age of puberty, and is thus, in the unanimous opinion of medical authorities productive of grievous suflering and permanent injury to child-wives and of physical deterioration in the community to which they belong." The opinions, however, have been very roughly given, and information is not sufficient as to the injury done to the community as regards the individual and the race. Bearing in mind the insufficient and unsatisfactory sanitary conditions to which women in labour are subject, in this country, it may be taken for granted that much preventible injury is being done to the people in this country. The facts, figures and other detailed informations are, however, wanting to show the extent of injury done and how much of that injury is due to premature consummation of marriages. Under the circumstances any means of preventing the evil must be, to a great extent, a leap in the dark and we can never be satisfied that our remedies would adequately, if at all, cover the ground we have to work upon. Statistics in this country are quite unsatisfactory, and even the language we use is more of sentiment than of facts. Knowing full well that child-bearing is a natural process which is regulated by human nature, and not by art and accident, it is to be expected that the process should go on naturally without let or hindrance, and inasmuch as child-birth, or prarticularly first child-birth, is subject to serious risks of life it is to be inferred that the condition is one, if not of danger, at least of serious consideration, and requires to be very carefully handled. In a process of nature accidents are rare and we should be particularly careful about false assumptions. What we hastily conclude as very likely may be the very reverse of likely. This statement is remarkably illustrated by the guess work lately published by Government. I find there some one who takes the average at 90 per cent. and another who takes it at 40 per cent., which shows that we may be wrong at 50 per cent. in one item. Professional statistics are sadly in defect in this respect; and we may be entirely wrong in our calculations and deductions. There are many factors in the case and surely to lump them all under the general head of 'premature consummation' is open to severe condemnation. In the case of racial deterioration the reporters who have written on the subject are peculiarly unscientific. In a question of biology, or physiology, every thing must depend on statistical information, and in this respect we have not a single fact to show that like moral sin improper consummation is visited in the race several generations after the first offender. Under the circumstance I cannot at present believe in the opinion that there has been sufficient deterioration in the Bengali race within the last 400 years on account of early marriages. There is positively not an iota of proof in that respect, and I can not see the smallest chance of doing the people any good by tampering with their marriage law and subjecting individuals to great incon-

DR. de JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—SURPASSINGLY EFFICACIOUS AS A RESTORATIVE MEDICINE AND FOOD.—Dr. Whitmore, Medical Officer on Health, St. Marylebone, writes—"My own somewhat lengthened experience as a Medical Practitioner enables me with confidence to recommend. Dr. de-Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, as being more uniform in quality, more certain in its effects, more palatable and infinitely less likely to disagree with the stomach than the Pale Oil. The practice which often prevails of mixing certain ingredient with Cod Liver Oil, to render it agreeable to the taste, is highly objectionable for we have it on the authority of Dr. de Jongh himself that any thing which sophisticates it takes largely from its therapeutic value. If I were asked for an explanation of marked success which for so many years has attended the administration of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, I should say that it is owing to its extraordinary medicinal dietetic and regiminal properties, and which are found to existing no other medicine that I, am acquainted with in such uniform combination." Dr. de Jongh's Light Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half pints, pints and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consigness on the capsule and the label under wrapper by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees Ansar, Harford and Co. 210, High Holborn London.

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venience on that account. I have personally high respect for the medical gentlemen consulted, but their letters as published show that they have not been consulted with a view to any scientific decision. It is certainly not in accordance with their wishes that conclusions have been drawn from reports which have not been got up for submission for scientific purposes. For no scientific man could deduce from them that the nation has deteriorated physically from premature consummation of marriages during many generations. In other words, the conclusion that the Government has arrived at is not in keeping with our ideas of what should be scientific facts. I have not the smallest possible objection to deferring, or altogether rejecting, religious practices of any kind whatever, if it can be shown that such is needed for the good of the community, but the demonstration should be exact and not a matter of a leap in the dark, and I cannot accept mere presumptions to be proofs, and at present conclusions drawn for the Bill are mere presumptions, and nothing more.

3. Even as a presumption that the delaying of consummation would be benefical to physical improvement of the race we have *per contra* to examine other conditions which are of even greater importance. It was with a view to prevent the deterioration of the race that policy prompted the Brahminic authors to avoid miscegenation and to preserve the purity of their race, they took every care possible to preserve the original purity of their caste. Early marriage is the consequence of their policy, and can we put a stop to early marriages without being prepared to meet with the consequence thereof and of thereby benefiting the nation? It would be easy enough to get up hybrids, but will they be in all cases such as the nation would like to have? There are many biological laws which are well known to the ethnologists but not taken care of with reference the question now under discussion. Physically the Bengalis are certainly not very superior, but there is in them a certain adaptation to the exigency of their conditions, which altered conditions may not be adapted to. It is well-known that unions of races like the Punjabis and the Bengalis are not ugenesic, and on the whole what is gained by mere physique is cost by reduced advantages in other respects. Many of these are debatable questions, but it is proposed to cast aside all considerations about them in carrying out the Bill.

4. On the other hand, the question of the faith of the nation on the value of the Government pledges is now supreme, and the Hindu nation will for certain think that the Government have not been true to their pledges, by breaking their promise. When the promise was given no condition whatever was attached to it, and to talk of other conditions is not such as would be creditable to Government. The change of law is also provisional on the face of it. The English limit sixteen years for majority; we in India cannot always abide by a lower limit. Ere long we shall require to change the limit and all considerations about social, physical and sundry other matters, we shall soon have to propose an alteration of the law in a matter in which the natives are peculiarly sensitive, and our motives in this respect must always be misconstrued at no distant date. Under these circumstances, I cannot recommend or approve of the Government adopting the change proposed. It can do no good whatever by it, but do an incalculable amount of mischief by breaking the pledges of Her Majesty thereby creating awde-spreadi suspicion the minds of the people.

5. The changes made in the Procedure Code are certainly considerate, but they do not take into consideration that it is not the officers themselves but the influences under which they are subjected are such as create the greatest amount of mischief. Family dissensions are not the least injurious in this respect. The policy of *hairan* and *pereshan* is the most important item to be taken into consideration in regard to the social condition of the people. To Englishmen it would sound a svery strange; to you, Sir, I need not say how *hairan* and *pereshan* will play so prominent a part in Mofussil life.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your most obedient servant
(Sd.) RAJENDRALALA MITRA.

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Government Notification.

Calcutta Gazette.—*February* 5, 1890.

GENERAL.—Maulvi Abdul Khalique, Deputy Collector is appointed to perform the function of a Collector under section 4 of Act VII (B C) of 1880 in the district of Khulna in the place of Babu Bhubaneswar Sing, retired.

Babu Nobin Krishna Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapur, is allowed leave for one year, under article 360 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Dwarka Nath Bose, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bagirhat Khulna, is transferred to to the Sader station of the district of Midnapur, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Nobin Krishna Banerjee, or until further orders.

Babu Benod Behary Sircar, Sub-Deputy Collector, Lalbagh, Murshidabad, is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.

Babu Gobind Chunder Das, M A, is appointed to act, until further orders, as a deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.

Mr J C Lloyed, Sub-Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the Palamow sub-division, of the district of Lohardugga.

Mr MacGregor, Engineer, Calcutta Naval Volunteers, is allowed leave of a absence for six months, with effect from the 1st instant.

Mr F J Marsden, Cheif Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, and Judge of the Court for the trial of Pilots, on furlough, has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India seven months' extraordinary leave without pay.

Babu Radha Kissore Sen acted as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the fourth grade, and was employed as Tehsildar of Fallacotta, in the district of Julpaiguri, from the 1st September to the 10th October 1890, both days inclusive.

POLICE.—M. C. Wintle, Superintendent of Police, on leave, is posted to Hazaribag.

The privilege leave for three months granted to Mr W. H. Cornish, District Superintendent of Police, under the order of the 18th October 1890, has been commuted by her Majesty's Secretary of State for India to leave on medical certificate for six months.

ECCLESIASTICAL.—The Revd. M. C. Miner of the American Baptist Mission in Midnapur is hereby granted licenses, under section 6 and 9 of Act XV of 1878, authorising him to solemnize marriages between persons one or both of persons who are native Christians respectively.

The Revd. M. C. Miner is also appointed to be Registrar of Births and Deaths under Act VI of 1886.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—Babu Koylash Chunder Sen, B. L, is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Maimensing, to be ordinarily stationed at Kishoreganj, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Ram Narayan Sircar, or until further orders.

WORTH KNOWING.—Messrs Clin & Co., Parts. Gents,—Since using Dr. Rabuteau's Syrup and Dragees of Iron. I no longer suffer with frightful cramp in the stomach as I did before trying this precious medicament. I have already noticed a very sensible amelioration in fhe general state of my health, my appetite and strength have returned, and I can walk for some hours without fatigue. I may also state that all the ferruginous medicines which I previously took deranged my sfomach, whereas with Dr. Rabuteau's Iron Dragees and Syrup I have never experienced any inconvenience.—V ve. Pregin, rue du Chateau 19, Fontainebleau.

Babu Anunda Kumar Sarbadhikari, Officiating Additional Subordinate Judge, Dacca, is allowed furlough for six months under article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 2nd instant, or such subsequent date as he may be relieved.

Babu Shib Chunder Ganguli is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Chyebassa Bench in the district of Singbhum, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Bench at the head quarters of the Patuakhali sub-division of the district of Backerganj, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class:—

Babu Brindaban Chandra Bose.
Babu Umesh Chandra Majumdar.
Babu Gopal Gobinda Kar.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Gupta, B L, is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, to be ordinarily stationed at Basirhat, during the absence, on leave of Babu Revati Churn Banerjee, or until further orders.

Babu Jogendra Nath Roy, Munsif of Puri, Cuttack, is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Noakhali, to be ordinarily stioned at Sudharam, during the absence, on furlough, of Babu Jagadiswar Gupta, or until futher orders.

Babu Mohendra Nath Mukerjee, Additional Munsif of Barisal, Backerganj, is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Cuttack, to be ordinarily stationed at Puri, and is vested with the fuctions of a District Court under section 26, sub-section (1) Act VII of 1889 within the limits of his jurisdiction, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Jogendra Nath Roy, or until further orders.

Babu Brojes Chandra Singha, B L, is appointed to act as an Additional Munsif in the district of Backerganj, to be ordinarily stationed at Barisal, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Mohendra Nath Mukerjee, on until further orders.

Babu Krishna Lall Dey, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Satkhira, Khulna, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignationt endered by Dewan Abdul Helim of his appointment as an Honorary Magistrate of the Jamalpur Bench, in the district of Maimensing.

Babu Anukul Chandra Ray, B A, is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Bazitpur, in the district of Maimensing, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Jamalpur Bench, in the district of Maimensing, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class:—

Syed Abdul Rahaman Mozaffar.
Babu Moheswar Chackravarti.
Babu Hriday Krishna Mazumdar.

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Mouzah Orjoonpookheria &c. comprising Mouzah Orjoonpookheria and half of kismut Rayegram, half of khaskhamar kismut Rayegram and mouzah Khorda Shahazadpore, Fotapore and halves of kismut Sooloonto, kismut Baja Sooloonto, kismut Dhondonia, and kismut Goneshbati in Turruff Soomoodragouri Towjee No. 5295.

Half Mouzah of kismut Borodbeck Towji No. 5239.

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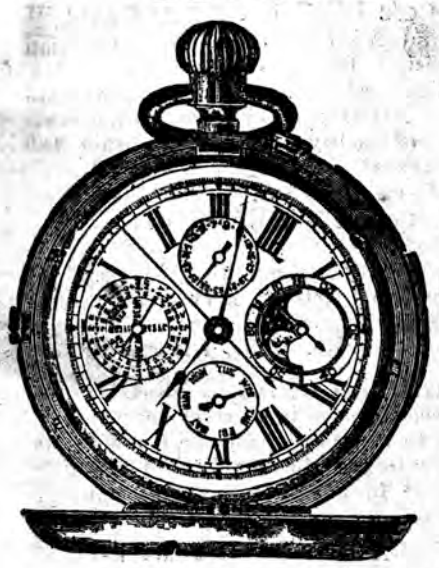

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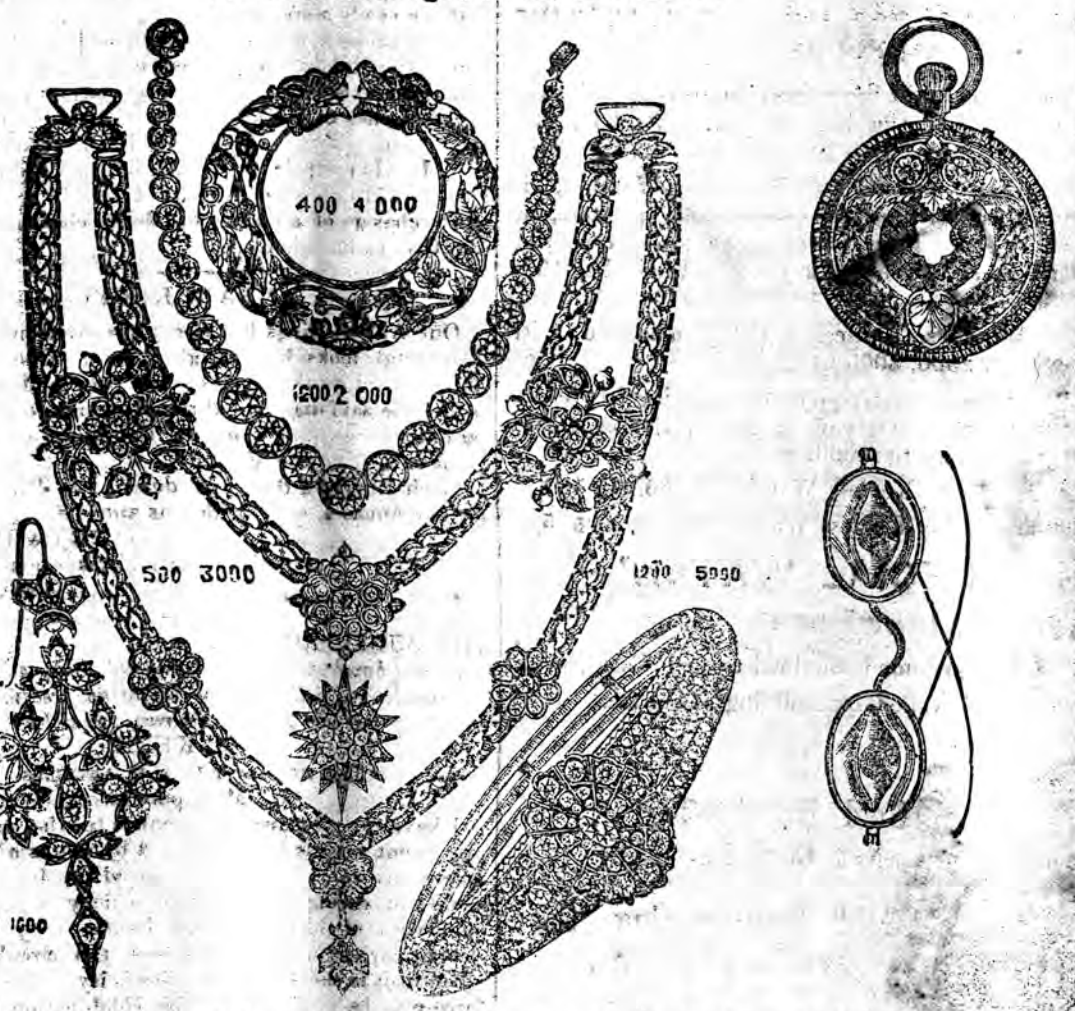

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